

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 An apparatus and method for sorting and selecting parts comprising a computer for
2 designing a plurality of a first type of component parts and a plurality of a second type of
3 component parts. Each job, which consists of the plurality of first component parts and the
4 plurality of second component parts, is assigned a unique identification by the computer. In
5 addition, the computer also assigns a part identification for each of the component parts. A
6 first tooling machine computer-controller, coupled to the computer, receives the plurality of
7 first component part designs, creates tooling instructions for the first component parts, and
8 creates labels for each of the first component parts. The labels include the unique job
9 identification and the part identification. A first tooling machine, coupled to the first tooling
10 machine computer-controller, receives the first component part tooling instructions, receives
11 material for the first component parts, and creates the first component parts. A second tooling
12 machine computer-controller, coupled to the computer, receives the second component part
13 designs, inputs the unique job identification, inputs the part identifications for at least one of
14 the newly created first component parts, and creates tooling instructions for the second
15 component parts. A second tooling machine, coupled to the second tooling machine
16 computer-controller, receives the second component part tooling instructions, receives material
17 for the second component parts, and ^{CREATES} ~~creates~~ the second component parts for each of the inputted ¹²⁻³⁻²⁰⁰¹ ~~first~~ ¹¹⁶
18 first component part identifications, thereby grouping associated parts during the
19 manufacturing process.